

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STAFF

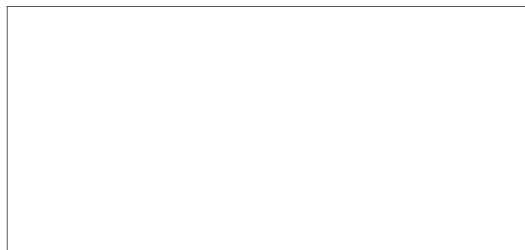
9 July 1984

SA/DCI/CA



STAT

The DCI did not comment on the proposal that he make a new videotape on leaks. Attached is a start of what I had in mind. Do you suppose he'd look at this and let me know whether to continue with drafting it?



STAT

C/SECOM

ACTION

DCI VIDEO ON LEAKS - II

ONCE AGAIN I FIND IT NECESSARY TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT LEAKS - A PRACTICE THAT ERODES THE SECURITY POSTURE OF THE UNITED STATES EVEN AS CANCER SAPS THE STRENGTH OF ITS HUMAN VICTIMS. BECAUSE THE TERM "LEAKS" IS BROADLY INTERPRETED TO MEAN MANY THINGS - RANGING FROM REVELATIONS OF TOP SECRET DATA TO PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL DECISIONS - LET ME TELL YOU PRECISELY WHAT I MEAN BY LEAKS. I REFER TO THE PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST BY THE NEWS MEDIA OF CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. YOU WILL NOTE THAT LEAKS, AS I DEFINE THEM, ARE A TWO-PART PHENOMENON. THE MEDIA PUBLISH THE LEAKED INFORMATION. THE ACTUAL UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF THE DATA IS COMMITTED BY SOMEONE WHO, LIKE YOU AND ME, IS CLEARED FOR OFFICIAL ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION. SOMEONE WHO HAS GIVEN HIS SOLEMN PLEDGE NOT TO DISCLOSE IT EXCEPT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS OR HER DUTIES. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I SPEAK TO YOU, WHO HAVE BEEN CLEARED FOR AND REGULARLY RECEIVE CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE. WE SHARE A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY AND A SACRED DUTY. I AM REQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947 TO PROTECT INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS. EACH OF YOU HAS GIVEN YOUR WORD, IN WRITING, TO PROTECT SUCH INFORMATION, AS WELL. WHY, THEN, DO I SPEAK TO THOSE WHO ARE ALLIED WITH ME IN THIS EFFORT? THE ANSWER IS REMINISCENT OF THE RESPONSE OF THE NOTORIOUS BANK ROBBER, WILLIE SUTTON. WHEN HE WAS ASKED WHY HE ROBBED BANKS, SUTTON REPLIED, "BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY IS." SIMILARLY, I TALK TO SECURITY CLEARED PEOPLE ABOUT UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES BECAUSE THAT'S

WHERE THE LEAKS ARE. WE DON'T DISSEMINATE CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE DIRECTLY TO THE PRESS. SOMEONE AMONG US HAS TO PASS IT ON TO THEM. THEREFORE, THE PRIMARY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM LIES WITH US - NOT WITH THE JOURNALISTS, WHO SIMPLY PUBLISH WHAT IS GIVEN TO THEM.

WHY IS THE PUBLICATION OF UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES OF INTELLIGENCE A SERIOUS PROBLEM? BECAUSE IT DAMAGES THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES IN SEVERAL WAYS. FIRST, IT TELLS OUR ADVERSARIES WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THEIR STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES AND INTENTIONS. IT ALSO TELLS THEM, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, HOW WE COLLECTED THE INFORMATION AND ADVERTISES THE CAPABILITIES AND VULNERABILITIES OF OUR COLLECTION EFFORTS. SECOND, IT ENABLES HOSTILE NATIONS TO PREDICT MORE EFFECTIVELY HOW WE WILL RESPOND TO THE INTELLIGENCE WE GATHER, TELLS THEM HOW THEY CAN STOP OUR COLLECTION ACTIVITIES, AND FINALLY, IT ENABLES THEM TO FEED US DISINFORMATION THROUGH SOURCES AND METHODS WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO TRUST AND RELY UPON. OVER THE LONG TERM, THIS COULD LEAD TO A DISASTER THAT WOULD MAKE THE PEARL HARBOR ATTACK LOOK LIKE A PICNIC. THIRD, LEAKS LEAD TO THE LOSS OF AGENTS AND THE COOPERATION OF INTELLIGENCE SERVICES OF FRIENDLY FOREIGN COUNTRIES. WHEN I SPEAK OF THE LOSS OF AGENTS, I DON'T NECESSARILY MEAN THE IMPRISONMENT OR EXECUTION OF BRAVE PEOPLE WHO TAKE INCREDIBLE RISKS TO SUPPORT FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. ALTHOUGH SUCH THINGS REGRETTABLY DO HAPPEN, OUR ABILITY TO GATHER VITAL INTELLIGENCE IS HARMED WHEN AN AGENT DECIDES COOPERATION WITH U.S. INTELLIGENCE IS TOO RISKY, BECAUSE EVERYTHING WE DO SEEMS TO APPEAR IN THE PRESS. OR WHEN ANOTHER COUNTRY'S

INTELLIGENCE SERVICE DECIDES TO HOLD BACK IMPORTANT DATA BECAUSE WE DON'T SEEM CAPABLE OF PROTECTING IT FROM UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE, THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE EFFORT IS SEVERELY HANDICAPPED. FINALLY, THE ECONOMIC COST OF LEAKS TO THE U.S. TAXPAYER CAN BE STAGGERING. AS ONE INTELLIGENCE OPERATION AFTER ANOTHER HAS ITS USEFULNESS DESTROYED BY MEDIA PUBLICITY, WE MUST PROVIDE NEW WAYS TO LEARN WHAT WE MUST KNOW ABOUT THE CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS OF NATIONS WHOSE AVOWED HISTORICAL INTENTION IS TO DESTROY OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND OUR WAY OF LIFE. DEVELOPING HUMAN SOURCES IS A RISKY AND EXPENSIVE BUSINESS. IN TERMS OF COST, THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNICAL COLLECTION CAPABILITIES TO REPLACE THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED AND COUNTERMEASURED IS ASTRONOMICAL. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN ILL AFFORD TO HAVE OUR ECONOMY BURDENED WITH SUCH UNNECESSARY COSTS RISING FROM UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES. AND YET WE CANNOT AFFORD NOT TO KNOW WHAT OUR ADVERSARIES ARE ABOUT.

PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS SPOKEN OUT AGAINST INTELLIGENCE LEAKS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS EVER EMPLOYED BY A CHIEF EXECUTIVE. IN HIS MESSAGE TO ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES FOLLOWING NSDD 84, HE SAID: "THE UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF OUR NATION'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BY THOSE ENTRUSTED WITH ITS PROTECTION IS IMPROPER, UNETHICAL AND JUST PLAIN WRONG." HE ALSO SAID, "LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE INTEND TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AGAINST ANY FEDERAL EMPLOYEE FOUND TO HAVE ENGAGED IN UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, REGARDLESS OF RANK OR POSITION. WHERE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT, CASES WILL ALSO BE REFERRED FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION." I KNOW THAT THE

OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF YOU AGREE WITH THE PRESIDENT THAT LEAKING IS JUST PLAIN WRONG. BUT ARE YOU DOING ALL YOU CAN TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, IN JUNE 1984, SAID "ONLY A GREATER INDIVIDUAL SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY ON THE PART OF EVERYONE WHO COMES INTO CONTACT WITH NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION CAN ENSURE ITS PROTECTION."